

NBC BRIEFING

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SOVIET LEADERSHIP

- I. Pravda has issued stern warning to dissidents in Soviet Communist party--according to unconfirmed press Molotov, Malenkov, Kaganovich and Shepilov are expected to be relieved from Presidium.
  - A. Two editorials in this morning's issue--echoed in other Moscow newspapers.
  - B. These editorials, while boasting of party unity, are apparently an attack on persons unknown who are weakening that unity, "no matter what post he occupies."
    1. Pravda says "The Party is not a debating society, it is a militant organization of working people....The standard of discipline is the same for all members of the Party, both the leaders and the rank-and-file."
  - C. One editorial praises Lenin's suppression of party factionalism in 1921, talks of necessity in the past for expulsions from party and Central Committee.
    1. Specific mention of light vs. heavy industry controversy at time of Malenkov's demotion.
    2. Also refers to "muddle in the question of building socialism"--on which Molotov was censured in 1955.
- II. Editorial's down-the-line defense of Khrushchev-Bulganin policies suggests that continued contention over some of these policies may have led Khrushchev to move against his political opposition--if story of dismissals is true.
  - A. In any case, leadership is apparently calling abrupt halt to "discussion"--Mao's "hundred flowers" are not to bloom in the steppe.

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B. We don't know how high in the Soviet gov't these arguments have gone, but tone of editorial suggests members of Central Committee are involved.

C. Some evidence Central Committee met in last few days.

III. Timing of new blast suggests that economic problems may be related.

A. Economic Reorganization (abolishing most ministries in favor of regional groupings) which formally went into effect 1 July, has run into criticism.

1. Pravda says "only a hopeless, politically blind person can fail to see the enormous progressive importance of these measures."

B. Final draft of Sixth Five Year Plan, which was to be out by mid-1957, has not appeared.

1. Editorial suggests heavy vs. light industry argument may still be an issue.